

Welcome to the E. Axel Wikstrom Home



Black marble fireplace from Sweden



Deal Stratton Wikstrom

Built in the early 1870's, this home was a show-place created by Axel Wikstrom, wealthy immigrant who came to America in 1868 from Sweden, where his father was a prominent lumberman. After working on a farm for two years to learn American farming methods, Mr. Wikstrom bought this farm and built this home for his bride, the former Miss Deal Stratton.

Some of the features of the farm have disappeared with the years; the fish and frog pond are no more, the wonderful stable has vanished, as have the herds of deer and buffalo which were pastured upon its acreage. But the fine house remains, and through the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Petersen, it appears today much as it did when the Wikstroms lived here.

The house is built entirely of cedar imported from Sweden. It was planned to accommodate not only Mr. and Mrs. Wikstrom but the servants necessary to run a household which involved much entertaining, for the Wikstroms were a most hospitable couple. Visitors cannot be admitted



Axel Wikstrom

to the attic, but it was there that Mr. Wikstrom entertained his men friends—the attic housed not only his billiard table, but his supply of whiskey and wine for his friends' enjoyment.

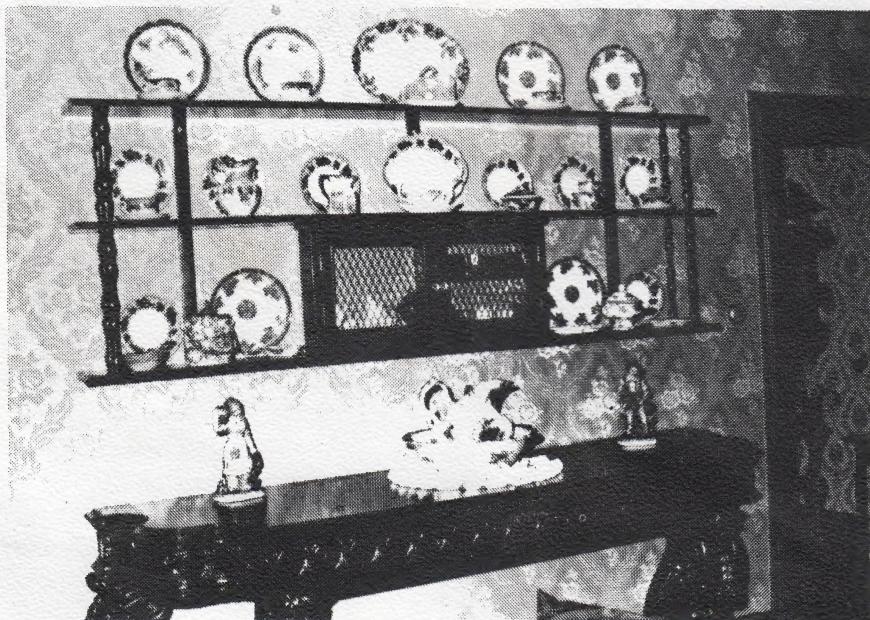
As you tour the house and enjoy the furnishings of the 1870 period, do notice the carved black marble fireplace in the living room—another rare feature which was imported from Sweden. Admire the fine collection of Flow blue china in the dining room, the impressive black walnut staircase in the main hall, and the beautifully carved pieces of furniture in the parlor.

This is truly a story-book house. We hope that you will enjoy it.

The Sesquicentennial Committee

Admission: One Dollar. There will be simple refreshments served. (In case of rain, visitors should be prepared to take off their shoes!)

The Pettersen Farm is located north of Momence and west of the Dixie Highway. Take turn-off number N600E west. The house is the second house on the south side of the road. The turn-off will be marked with streamers or a special sign.



Flow Blue China in the dining room

*Kitchen cabinet
now in the den*



*Dry sink and butter
churn—necessities
in an 1870 kitchen*

